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Fortunate Man

John Berger

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John Berger : Fortunate Man before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Fortunate Man:

19 of 19 people found the following review helpful. Doctoring in communities By Emeritus A Fortunate Man, first published in the late 1960's has remained an enduring book which not only captures a time and place - a small village in the border country between England and Wales in the 1960's, but has become a book which in many ways is an archetypal essay about the relationship of the physician to himself, to the community and to the ideals and realities of practice. I have taught this book in medical school for almost 20 years, using it as a stimulus for young physicians to think about themselves and how they view their careers, looking forward. The photographs by Jean Mohr are among the most striking and emotional depictions of medicine in the late 20th century and the book has become a widely referenced example of combining narrative and photographs in the documentary style. Anyone who wishes to understand the essence of the doctor patient relationship or the doctor community relationship should own this book and read it. It is a classic. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Powerful, brief, moving story By CRM Brookline This strikes me as a book to be read for people reckoning with career and life choices. It is a rich and complex look at a country doctor who has made a life of helping others, but not in some glorified Ghandi-like way-- this man is down to earth and the descriptions of his life are wonderfully down to earth too. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A rare reading experience. By P Clay Carter The story and characters had a powerful, positive effect on me. Even weeks later, I think about some of the insights and actions.

In this quietly revolutionary work of social observation and medical philosophy, Booker Prize-winning writer John Berger and the photographer Jean Mohr train their gaze on an English country doctor and find a universal man--one who has taken it upon himself to recognize his patient's humanity when illness and the fear of death have made them unrecognizable to themselves. In the impoverished rural community in which he works, John Sassall tend the maimed, the dying, and the lonely. He is not only the dispenser of cures but the repository of memories. And as Berger and Mohr follow Sassall about his rounds, they produce a book whose careful detail broadens into a meditation on the value we assign a human life. First published thirty years ago, *A Fortunate Man* remains moving and deeply relevant--no other book has offered such a close and passionate investigation of the roles doctors play in their society. "In contemporary letters John Berger seems to me peerless; not since Lawrence has there been a writer who offers such attentiveness to the sensual world with responsiveness to the imperatives of conscience." --Susan Sontag

A genuine tour de force . . . The intimate portrait of one man and his microscopic world reveals the faults and strains of a whole society (OBSERVER) This extraordinary book unravels the tangled branches of the everyday to reveal the brightness within. It inspires me to think more slowly, more deeply, to wear acquired knowledge lightly, to open my senses more fully to the wonders in the plain and close-at-hand (JAMES MEEK) It's one of my favourite books in the world, an ongoing inspiration as to how books should be written (and photography used) (ALAIN de BOTTON) This disturbingly beautiful book will continue to haunt you long after you have set it aside (RICHARD HOLLOWAY) In 1967 *A Fortunate Man* marked the most significant step forward in the collaboration of a writer and photographer since *Let us Now Praise Famous Men* by Walker Evans and James Agee. Incredibly, it still does . . . A masterpiece (GEOFF DYER) I only wish I could do justice in a few words to the richness that makes this book so compelling (GUARDIAN) John Berger seems to me peerless; not since Lawrence has there been a writer who offers such attentiveness to the sensual world with responsiveness to the imperatives of conscience (SUSAN SONTAG) A masterpiece of witness; a three-way meditation on humanity, society and the value of healing (GAVIN FRANCIS) A book about caring that will make you care, and a book about deep healing that may heal your soul. It is also, almost 50 years on, uncannily timely (SIMON GARFIELD) From the Inside Flap In this quietly revolutionary work of social observation and medical philosophy, Booker Prize-winning writer John Berger and the photographer Jean Mohr train their gaze on an English country doctor and find a universal man--one who has taken it upon himself to recognize his patient's humanity when illness and the fear of death have made them unrecognizable to themselves. In the impoverished rural community in which he works, John Sassall tend the maimed, the dying, and the lonely. He is not only the dispenser of cures but the repository of memories. And as Berger and Mohr follow Sassall about his rounds, they produce a book whose careful detail broadens into a meditation on the value we assign a human life. First published thirty years ago, *A Fortunate Man* remains moving and deeply relevant--no other book has offered such a close and passionate investigation of the roles doctors play in their society. "In contemporary letters John Berger seems to me peerless; not since Lawrence has there been a writer who offers such attentiveness to the sensual world with responsiveness to the imperatives of conscience." --Susan Sontag About the Author John Berger is an English art critic, novelist, painter and poet. His books include *Ways of Seeing* and *G.*, which won the 1972 Booker Prize.